

Guidance Note for Defining Village Confines

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Version 2 – January 2017

Village confines (also referred to as settlement/village boundaries) can only be defined or amended through the production of a local plan or neighbourhood development plan. This guidance note has been prepared to assist neighbourhood development plan groups define village confines for their neighbourhood plans. This is the first version of this resource therefore feedback on the usefulness of this tool would be appreciated and then we can improve it for the benefit of other Groups. Please send any comments to planningpolicy@daventrydc.gov.uk

The Council mapped confines for the limited development villages in the Saved policies of the Daventry District Local Plan but it is acknowledged that whilst the boundary is current in some parts of these villages there are areas where development has taken place whereby the confines could be updated. For restricted infill villages, these were defined through paragraph 4.90 of the Saved Local Plan, however a neighbourhood plan provides the first opportunity to define the confines boundary on a map should the group developing the plan wish to do so.

The starting point for establishing the village confines is the Saved policies of the Local Plan, which sets out the current method for defining confines for restricted infill villages in paragraph 4.90, supporting text to Policy HS22¹. It is considered that this method is equally applicable for limited development villages where the Neighbourhood Planning Group wishes to review their village confines in a Neighbourhood Plan. The Issues and Options consultation report for the Part 2a Daventry District Local Plan, which will eventually replace the Saved policies of the Local Plan, contains additional criteria for defining confines.²

Principles from the two documents have been combined to form this guide:

Principles for inclusion within the confines
A. Buildings and curtilages which are contained and visually separate from the open countryside that are clearly part of a coherent network of buildings that form the village
B. Areas of land with planning permission for built development that are directly adjacent to the village
C. Allocations for built development in the plan or an NDP

¹ <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/local-plan/?Local%20Plan>

² <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-policy/part-2-local-plans/>

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Principles for exclusion from the confines
<p>D. Gardens which are visually open and relate to the open countryside</p> <p>E. Individual, groups of dwellings and agricultural buildings that are detached or peripheral to the village</p> <p>F. Areas of employment or leisure use, including public open space, that is detached or peripheral to the village</p> <p>G. Land which would otherwise be outside the confines, even if it is between the edge of the village and a bypass</p>

Groups may feel that they wish to add locally specific principles. These may be acceptable if they conform with the principles set out in this guide, are justifiable and meet the basic conditions..

A record of confines definition or amendment should be kept, this will form part of the evidence base for the neighbourhood development plan.

This is part of a series of tools to help Neighbourhood Planning Groups, which currently includes:

- Site Assessment Form
- Evidence Base Checklist
- Project Management Template
- Referendum Expenses